Paul Concedes Passing Data to Editor for Private Group

By GENE BLAKE, *Times Staff Writer*

Suspended Los Angeles Police Detective Jay Paul conceded Thursday that he passed along confidential department intelligence information to an editor of publications for a private right-wing organization.

But Paul, testifying for a second day in his departmental disciplinary hearing, drew a distinction between the editor, John Rees, and the private intelligence group, the Western Goals Foundation.

Among charges against Paul is that he lied when he denied giving confidential information to the foundation. His attorney, Robert Loew, pointed out that Paul had admitted to investigators that he gave the information to Rees, and he is not charged with that.

Paul told the three-man Board of Rights that, in addition to editing publications for the Western Goals Foundation, Rees has his own newsletter, Information Digest, and does work for others.

Paul said he met Rees in the late 1970s through the office of the late Rep. Larry P. McDonald (D-Ga.), head of the John Birch Society. Under questioning by Sgt. Ken Small, who is presenting the department's case, Paul said he was not aware that Rees thereafter became a co-founder with McDonald of the Western Goals Foundation.

However, Paul conceded that it was Rees who arranged for Paul to participate in a computer project for the Western Goals Foundation, with equipment provided by the foundation and installed in the law office of Paul's wife.

Paul was shown a copy of a domestic security report he prepared in 1981 for the now-disbanded Public Disorder Intelligence Division. He agreed that it came from the PDID library and that it bore the warning, "Prepared for use of law enforcement personnel and should be considered confidential."

He conceded that there was intelligence information and department information in the report.

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"Did you send the domestic security report to Western Goals Foundation?" Small asked.

"No, sir," Paul replied. "I sent it to John Rees and a number of other people."

Small told the board that Paul had sent two copies of the report to Western Goals Foundation in 1981 and another to Rees in March, 1983.

Paul then conceded that he had sent the foundation a copy of the report, with the confidential information eliminated, and a computer disk that it had been prepared from.

When asked by Small whether he was aware that Rees had told police investigators that he received two copies of the report in 1983, one containing confidential information and the other not, Paul replied: "I'm not aware of it—it's possible."

Small identified two pieces of information that he said were confidential and were placed in the Western Goals Foundation computer.

One listed the names of 13 people and the circumstances of their arrest in 1981 at a nuclear facility in Crystal River, Fla. The other listed 29 people arrested at a May Day demonstration of the Revolutionary Communist Party in Los Angeles in 1980.

Loew stipulated that Paul had entered the information into the Western Goals Foundation computer "as a benefit to the department consistent with instruction he received." Loew argued that arrest information is public and that police are required to release it.

However, Small argued that Paul had acquired the information in his role as an intelligence officer and that he was not authorized to release it. He said names of those arrested had not been published in newspaper accounts.

Paul had acquired the names of those arrested in Florida from an intelligence officer there, Small pointed out.

Not From PDID Files

Paul said the information had not come from PDID files, although he subsequently put some of it in PDID files and in his domestic security report. He pointed out that the intelligence officer in Florida had not indicated that the information he supplied was confidential.

"Are you aware he has said he would not have given the information to you if you were not an intelligence officer?" asked Small.

"No, sir," Paul replied.

Paul will continue testifying when the hearing resumes Monday.